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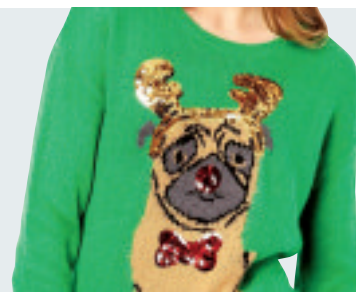
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TURN THOSE RIDICULOUS PARTIES INTO A SHOWCASE. PAGE 23



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## Prescription problem.

Staten Island has three times more overdoses from painkillers than the rest of New York City.

**Safe use.** A new campaign targeting residents of the borough warns of the dangers of addiction.

PAGE 02

## Save money on holiday shopping with apps

PAGE 15

## Cooper and Lawrence pair up a second time

PAGE 18

## Your fave authors choose their fave authors

PAGE 21

## Pack smart, avoid pesky baggage fees

PAGE 22

## 'Elf on the Shelf' not just for kids anymore

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NEWS

Top 3

**Trending online at Metro.us**

**1** 'Megyn Kelly says she was joking about 'white Santa' controversy'

**2** 'How to shop smart and avoid scams on flash sale sites like Groupon, Living Social, Gilt'

**3** VIDEO: Seattle bus driver beats up passenger after being spit on'

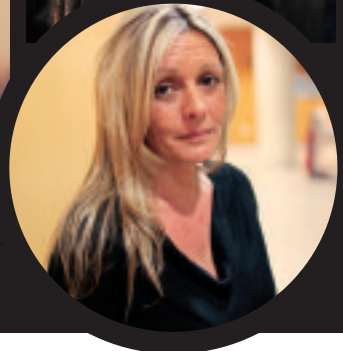
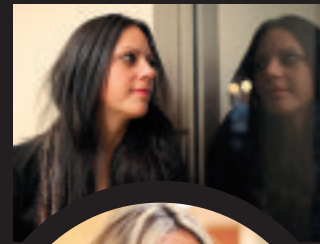
Quoted

"I've always thought that Santa Claus is a short, Jewish, balding 72-year-old guy, so I'll give it a go."

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, on what he plans to do next



Melissa Forsyth and Ann Marie Perrotto hug after talking about their sons' drug addictions. Danielle Newman, top right, was addicted to painkillers for five years. Ann Marie Perrotto, right, lost her son Christopher to a painkiller overdose. / BESS ADLER, METRO



# Overdose epidemic on Staten Island

**Painkillers.** Deaths by prescription drug overdose occur three times as often in Staten Island as anywhere else in the city.

**Heroin**

**"Chemically, they are very similar to heroin. Think of them as heroin in pill form."**

Thomas Farley, on prescription painkillers like oxycodone

**By the numbers**

**190**

In 2012, 190 New Yorkers died from overdoses related to prescription painkillers like Percocet, OxyContin and Vicodin. Staten Island was hit with those deaths at three times the rate of the rest of the city.

son, Stephen, died from an overdose in 2006.

New York City Health Commissioner Thomas Farley suggested that a high rate of overdose in one area could be a result of a peer influence: doctors

a happy kid, she said, and great athlete. Local papers referred to him as "Hurricane Chris" when he played baseball.

Chris was prescribed painkillers after a car accident. When he developed an addiction, Perrotto said that he told her the need for it "was like a demon in the back of his head."

When she tried to get help for him, she said that they were treated like they were a bother.

"I was watching my son die and I had no control over it," Perrotto said.

Ultimately, Chris could not beat back that demon in his head: He passed away in 2011 at the age of 22.



**DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN**

danielle.tcholakian@metro.us

## Second snowfall. More is expected today in New York

More snow is coming — just in time for today's commute.

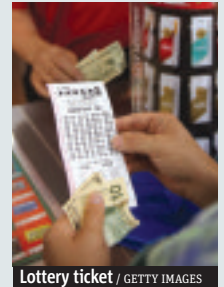
The five boroughs could get up to 5 inches of snow, with the storm beginning around 5 a.m. and lasting until late afternoon, according to the National Weather Service.

A winter weather advisory has been issued.

The Department of Sanitation called a "snow alert" beginning at 4 a.m. and said plows will be ready.

For updates on how the storm might affect mass transit, visit MTA.info. **ANNA SANDERS**

**Big money**



Lottery ticket / GETTY IMAGES

## Lottery officials seek winners of unclaimed jackpots in New York

A dozen New York residents have yet to claim their lottery jackpots of a million dollars or more, and now the Cuomo administration is making a push to find the missing winners.

NY Lottery's Yolanda Vega and Gretchen Dizer are set to visit an upstate liquor store on Thursday where a \$1 million Powerball ticket was sold earlier this year and is set to expire in one month.

Lottery winners have one year to claim their prize before the money goes back into the prize pool. A total of 12 jackpots of a million dollars or more have gone unclaimed in the state this year, including winning tickets sold in New York City.

C&C Discount Store in the Bronx sold a \$1 million Powerball ticket in February, the New York Post reported.

"I hope this person finds out that he won," said Carlos Caceres, the store's owner.

In Brooklyn, a \$130.3 million prize from a Powerball drawing last month has yet to be claimed. That ticket was sold at Rocco's Bakery & Deli in Brighton Beach.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo told The Post that the Lottery Division "is actively looking for these winners so they can collect on the prizes that are rightfully theirs."

**LAURA SHIN**



The city could see up to 5 inches of snow. / GETTY IMAGES



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# Mayor Bloomberg launches five-day, five-borough tour

**Legacy.** The tour will highlight initiatives by the administration, from parks to public safety.

With just over two weeks remaining at the helm of City Hall, Mayor Michael Bloomberg will tout his legacy across the five boroughs this week.

The mayor's office announced Bloomberg will begin a five-day citywide tour Tuesday to highlight his administration's initiatives in the last 12 years.

"These events will highlight areas like parks, economic development, education, immigration, technology, transportation, infrastructure, livable cities, housing, crime, public health and the arts," Deputy Mayor



Mayor Michael Bloomberg greets the first visitors at the 9/11 Memorial on Sept. 12, 2011. / GETTY IMAGES

Howard Wolfson wrote in a memo to staff and reporters titled "T-Minus 15 Days" Monday.

The mayor's staff also launched a website to stress Bloomberg's record, progress.mikebloomberg.com.

The blue and orange site has sections touting public safety and environmental initiatives, among others.

"Since he was first elected mayor in 2001, just weeks after the attacks of 9/11, Mike Bloomberg has built an extraordinary record of progress," the site reads.

In the memo, Wolfson made a point of noting that the entire administration is "committed to proceeding with the successful transition to Mayor-Elect de Blasio."

ANNA SANDERS

[anna.sanders@metro.us](mailto:anna.sanders@metro.us)

## East River Ferry to operate through 2019



The ferry service has turned out to be popular. / GETTY IMAGES

The East River Ferry will continue to operate through at least 2019, officials announced last week.

Originally scheduled to end next June, the ferry will continue to provide service along Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens.

Since the ferry's launch in June 2011, it has carried nearly 3

million passengers. An average 100,000 passengers use the ferry every month.

"The East River Ferry has been a huge success and demonstrates the demand for efficient, affordable transit to points along the city's waterfront," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said in a statement Friday.

Daily ferry service

operates between East 34th Street and Pier 11 in Manhattan, Long Island City in Queens, Greenpoint, North Williamsburg, South Williamsburg and DUMBO Brooklyn.

With the service extension, passenger fares will remain \$4 for a one-way weekday ticket and \$140 for a weekday unlimited monthly pass.

ANNA SANDERS

### Cost of a ride

It costs \$140 for a week-day unlimited monthly pass.

- Weekend ferry fare will be \$6 a ride.
- Unlimited weekday and weekend passes are \$160 per month.

### Jewelry heist

#### Employees tied up during robbery

A pair of robbers stormed into a Lower Manhattan jewelry store on Saturday and threatened the store's employees, a father and daughter, with a gun, police said.

The suspects entered Omega Millennium

jewelry store on Nassau Street at about 4:30 p.m. One suspect held out a black firearm while his friend pushed the man and his daughter in a safe room.

Both men tied up the victims using zip ties and a cord, police said.

They then removed jewelry from display cases and fled the store.

LAURA SHIN

### Last legacy

#### Kelly signs with speakers group

Police Commissioner Ray Kelly officially has some post-inauguration plans: the NYPD's out-going top cop signed with the speaking agency Greater Talent Network. He will start his new job on Jan. 1, 2014.

"I'm looking forward to sharing the lessons I've learned leading the



finest police force in the world as we met countless challenges everyday," Kelly said in a statement.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN

### Manhattan

#### Woman assaulted by wallet-finder

A 21-year-old woman was assaulted in her home early Monday morning, police reported.

Cops said that the alleged assailant showed up at the woman's apartment around 2 a.m. after

finding her wallet at a nearby McDonald's.

The alleged assailant reportedly attacked the woman while she was in her doorway, according to police.

The young woman struggled to fight him off, police said.

When she screamed for help, the alleged assailant took off running.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN



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## Books. Flash mob protests public library renovations

Decked out as billionaires and books, opponents of the New York Public Library's controversial renovation plans held a flash mob in front of the 42nd Street branch Monday afternoon.

"We were trying, in a playful, theatrical way, to draw attention to a very real danger," said Library Lovers League's Leslie Kauffman, who participated in the protest with dozens of other New Yorkers.

As part of the \$300 million plan, the Mid-Manhattan and the Science, Industry and Business Libraries will close. Both collections will be absorbed into the main branch and property sales will fund renovations.

Kauffman said the plan only benefits developers. Protestors acted out such an exchange, with some dressed as real estate moguls and others,

### Renovation plans

Two branches will close under the \$300 million plan.

- The Mid-Manhattan Library, to close, will have its circulating collection moved to a new space previously closed to the public.
- The library said the plans increase public space by 10,000 square feet.

including young children, playing books.

Mayor-Elect Bill de Blasio opposed the plans in July.

Responding to the protest, Ken Weine, the New York Public Library's vice president of communications, said that the plans will "overall, strengthen NYPL's network of branch and research libraries."

ANNA SANDERS



## Endangered turtles hatch at Zoo

Five endangered turtles hatched in the Prospect Park Zoo last month. This is the first time that Chinese big-headed turtles successfully were born at a North American zoo, according to the Wildlife Conservation Society, which manages the Zoo. The turtles' skulls are so large in proportion to their bodies that their heads can't withdraw into their shells for protection. They only grow to be about 7 inches long. / WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

### Toy drive

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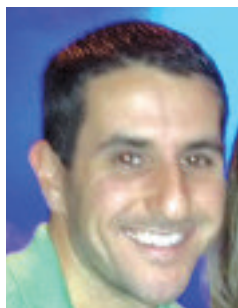


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**Scene.** The mall is located 20 miles west of New York City, with 150 stores and restaurants.

The couple had walked out of the Mall at Short Hills in Millburn, N.J., at about 9:10 p.m. on Sunday and headed for the parking deck, where the man opened the door of their 2012 silver Range Rover for



Miles from the scene

10

The car was found on Monday parked in Newark, about 10 miles from the scene of the killing, acting Essex County Prosecutor Carolyn Murray said in a statement.



This is an aerial view of the Mall at Short Hills. / GOOGLE MAPS

After the shooting, the gunman and an accomplice fled in the Range Rover.

He was pronounced dead at 11:45 p.m. at Morristown Medical Center, Fennelly said. Friedland's wife was not injured.

## US senator's ex-top aide under house arrest in child porn case

Jesse Loskarn, 35, who was arrested on Wednesday by U.S. postal agents on suspicion of possessing and attempting to distribute child pornography, waived his right to a preliminary hearing in U.S. District Court. His case will go directly to a grand jury. Alexander, a Tennessee Republican seeking a third term next year, fired Loskarn following his arrest. **REUTERS**

## Judge rules surveillance program is likely unlawful

U.S. District Judge Richard Leon stayed his own ruling pending an expected appeal by the government, but in a significant challenge to U.S. spying authority, he wrote that the program likely violated Americans' right to be free of unreasonable searches.

The U.S. Justice Department was reviewing the ruling, a spokesman said.

**REUTERS**

[illegible]

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NEWS

8

## US repatriates two GITMO detainees to Saudi Arabia



Despite a promise to shut down the Guantanamo Bay facility, President Barack Obama has failed to do so during nearly five years in office, in part because of resistance from Congress. / GETTY IMAGES

**Detainees.** The two who have been held at the facility since 2002 were not charged with a crime.

The United States has sent two detainees being held at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility back to their native Saudi Arabia, the Pentagon said on Monday, the latest push in a slow-moving effort toward eventually

shutting the prison.

The facility was set up to house foreigners suspected of acts of terrorism against the United States in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people.

"The U.S. has made real progress in responsibly transferring Guantanamo detainees despite the burdensome legislative restrictions that have impeded our efforts," Paul Lewis, the Pentagon's special envoy for the closure of the facility,

said in a statement.

President Obama had promised to shut down the facility during his 2008 campaign, saying it had damaged the reputation of the U.S. **REUTERS**

**Prisoner population**

# 160

The transfers of Saad Muhammad Husayn Qahtani and Hamood Abdulla Hamood lowered the prisoner population to 160 and follows the repatriation of two prisoners to Algeria earlier this month.

**Most to Vietnam**

### US offers funds to South East Asia for sea patrol

The United States on Monday offered \$32.5 million in assistance to Southeast Asian nations, more than half to Vietnam, to boost maritime security, which comes as tension grows with China over rival claims in the South China Sea.

On his first visit to Vietnam as secretary of state, John Kerry denied that the assistance had anything to do with China.

**REUTERS**

## Deal. Kerry, Zarif spoke last week after fresh Iran-related sanctions

The U.S. and Iranian foreign ministers last week discussed the importance of carrying out the Nov. 24 Iran nuclear deal after Washington blacklisted 19 companies, people and vessels for dealing with Tehran, a U.S. official said on Monday.

The U.S. sanctions, imposed under existing U.S. law, drew criticism from Iranian officials and raised questions about the Nov. 24 agreement under which Iran agreed to curb its nuclear program for six months in exchange for limited sanctions relief.

"They discussed the importance of moving forward [on carrying out the agreement] and of maintaining a constructive atmosphere as the negotiations continue," the U.S. official said. "The conversation was focused on the way forward."

The U.S. State Department said it told Iranian negotiators during talks before the Nov. 24 deal that it would enforce existing U.S. sanctions laws and gave Iranian officials a general advance warning about last week's blacklisting action. **REUTERS**



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An undated file picture shows Russian missile complex Iskander on display during a military equipment exhibition in the Siberian town of Nizhny Tagil. / GETTY IMAGES

# Russia stations its Iskander missiles as show of force: Reports

**Range.** Missiles based in Kaliningrad could reach deep into Poland, Lithuania or Latvia.

Russia has deployed Iskander missiles with a range of 250 miles in its Baltic Sea exclave of Kaliningrad, which borders NATO members Poland and Lithuania, the pro-Kremlin newspa-

per Izvestia reported on Monday.

The missiles have been in place "for some time," according to Izvestia's source, a high-level Defence Ministry official it did not name. Another unnamed military source said they were deployed about 18 months ago.

The Izvestia report followed a story in German newspaper Bild on Saturday that said secret satellite imagery showed Iskander-M missiles stationed near

### Quoted

"I think it's just to show who is the boss in the region."

Pabriks

the Polish border.

The reports caused alarm in Poland and the Baltic states, which are wary of Russian military movements after decades of dominance by the Soviet Union. Their alarm was

aggravated by tension between Russia and the West over Ukraine.

"We have followed these events for quite some time, and this is not a surprise for us," Artis Pabriks, defense minister of nearby Latvia, told Reuters.

But he added: "It creates unnecessary political tension and suspicions and reduces mutual trust, because we don't see reason why Russians would need such weapons here."

REUTERS

### Victims

## UN seeks \$6.5B for Syria crisis in 2014

The United Nations appealed for a record \$6.5 billion for Syria and its neighbors on Monday to help 16 million people, many of them hungry or homeless victims of a conflict that has lasted 33 months with no end in sight.

The Syrian appeal accounted for half of an overall funding plan of \$12.9 billion for 2014 to help 52 million people in

17 countries, announced by U.N. emergency relief coordinator Valerie Amos at a meeting of donor countries in Geneva.

"This is the largest amount we have ever had to request at the start of the year," Amos told a news conference, referring to the worldwide appeal.

The money requested for Syria, covering food, drinking water, shelter, education, health services and polio vaccines, was the largest U.N. appeal ever for a single crisis.

REUTERS

## Exploration program. China eyes collection of lunar samples in 2017

China aims to launch its next unmanned lunar probe in 2017, with the aim of collecting and bringing home lunar samples, an official said on Monday, after the country's first probe landed successfully on the moon over the weekend.

China's leaders have set a priority on advancing its space program, with President Xi Jinping calling for the country to



Model of the Jade Rabbit probe  
GETTY IMAGES

establish itself as a space power.

The Chang'e 3 probe landed on the moon on Saturday, setting down a lunar rover called "Jade Rabbit." REUTERS



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NEWS 12



Employees of Internet retail giant Amazon stage a strike in front of the company's logistics center in Bad Hersfeld, central Germany. / GETTY IMAGES

# German Amazon workers strike as orders peak

**No delays.** Amazon says that most staff shun the strike, and Christmas trade is unaffected.

and sales there grew almost 21 percent in 2012 to \$8.7 billion, a third of its overseas total. Amazon took its most daily orders in Germany last Dec. 16, when almost 4 million items were bought, with shipments peaking on Dec. 17.

Hundreds of Amazon.com Inc. workers in Germany went on strike on Monday, just as pre-Christmas sales were set to peak, in a dispute over pay and conditions that has raged for months.

Germany is Amazon's second-biggest market behind the United States,

Amazon, which employs 9,000 warehouse staff in Germany plus 14,000 seasonal workers at nine distribution centres, said 1,115 staff had joined the strike at three sites, but there had been no delays to deliveries.

"Our customers can continue to rely on us for

By the numbers

**700**

The Verdi union said up to 700 workers joined the strike in Amazon's logistic center in Bad Hersfeld, plus 500 to 600 in Leipzig. For the first time, the union also called a strike in Graben, where Verdi said 600 workers took part.

the prompt delivery of their Christmas presents," a spokeswoman said, adding that Amazon uses its whole European logistics network over the Christmas period to ensure delivery times. **REUTERS**

## Canada. Competition watchdog challenges Google's dominance

Canada's Competition Bureau has filed a legal motion against Google Inc. alleging that the company is abusing its dominant position in online search, joining U.S. and European anti-trust authorities in challenging the practices of the Web giant.

The bureau commissioner, in a federal court filing dated Dec. 11., is seeking an order requiring Google hand over information about its business practices, including contracts.

The scope of the investigation is similar to those being conducted in the United States, European Union and elsewhere.

The bureau said it has reason to believe Google has, since at least 2005, engaged in anti-competitive behavior. That includes signing exclusive deals with mobile operating system developers, Web publishers and Web browser developers, and giving preference to its own services over its competitors' content. **REUTERS**

Dynamic trade

## Google buys military robot developer

Google Inc. acquired Boston Dynamics, a privately held company best known for building robots that look as if they belong in a science-fiction movie and which are often co-developed or funded by the U.S. military.

The acquisition is the latest by Google's secretive robotics division, led by Andy Rubin, the former boss of the company's Android mobile operating system. **REUTERS**





# Judge: Detroit appeals can go to the 6th Circuit Court



Old tires rest near the abandoned Packard Automotive Plant. / GETTY IMAGES

## From the bench.

The city's debt has led it to restructure through bankruptcy.

Appeals of Detroit's historic bankruptcy will be allowed to bypass a federal district court and head straight to the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the bankruptcy judge overseeing the case ruled from the bench on Monday.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes, after listening briefly to arguments from lawyers for the city's unions, retirees and others, ruled they can proceed directly to the appeals court. He added that he would decide in the "next day or so" whether to ask the appeals court to take up the matter in an expedited fashion.

Attorney Lisa Fenning,

who represents the city's two pension funds, told Rhodes that an expedited appeals process would not hinder Detroit's ongoing mediation with its creditors or the city's ability to submit its restructuring plan to the court.

"We're not trying to slow down the confirmation process," said Fenning, a former federal bankruptcy judge in California. "We think they need to go in tandem."

Detroit Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr has said the city intends to submit its plan to restructure its debt in early January.

Earlier this month, Rhodes declared that Detroit met the requirements for Chapter 9 municipal bankruptcy under federal law. He said the city, with more than \$18 billion in debt, was insolvent and that negotiations with its creditors were impractical.

REUTERS

## The dirty truth

### FDA proposes tighter rules on antibacterial soap products

Makers of antibacterial hand soaps and body washes would have to demonstrate that their products are safe and more effective than soap and water in preventing infection and the spread of bacteria, under a rule

proposed by U.S. regulators on Monday.

"Although consumers generally view these products as effective tools to help prevent the spread of germs, there is currently no evidence that they are any more effective at preventing illness than washing with plain soap and water," the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said in a statement. REUTERS

## Revving its engines

### GM to invest \$1.3 billion in five plants

General Motors Co. said on Monday it will invest nearly \$1.3 billion at five U.S. plants to make a new transmission and boost output for a planned new engine as well as add a vehicle paint shop.

GM, the No. 1 U.S.

## By the numbers

# \$8B

The investment is part of \$8 billion that GM typically spends annually on its global operations and will be used to make a new 10-speed transmission and boost planned output of a new V6 engine, as well as support production of an existing 6-speed transmission, the company said.

automaker, said the investment at the plants in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana will create or retain about 1,000 jobs combined, but did not say how many will be new jobs. The five plants employ about 7,500 people.

Since 2009, when GM emerged from bankruptcy with the help of a \$49.5 billion U.S. taxpayer bailout, the company has

announced investments of more than \$10.1 billion in its U.S. operations, including \$2.8 billion this year alone.

GM has made a series of announcements as the end of the year approaches, including the promotion of product development chief Mary Barra to chief executive, starting next month.

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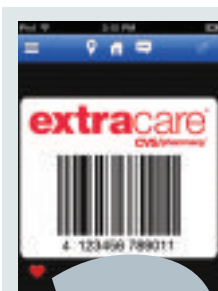


### Use digital coupons

There's a much easier way to save money at the register than using coupons. "As soon as you walk into a store, the **RetailMeNot** app alerts you of sales that are going on," Knobloch says. "You don't have to tell it where you are, it just knows wherever you are out shopping."

### Get an app that keeps things simple

There are a lot of money managing apps, but the one that can do the most might not be the best option for you. "Most people don't need something super elaborate like Quicken," Knobloch says. Her app of choice is **Spendee**, which helps users set and stick to a budget. "It will basically take charge and show you where your money is going," she says.



### Put your loyalty cards on your phone

"I don't want to carry around a 10-pound wallet full of plastic loyalty cards," says Knobloch. Instead, she uses **CardStar**, a free app for iPhone and Android. You can scan your loyalty cards and it keeps them all in the same place.



### Make Pinterest boards

That's right, it's not just for planning your imaginary wedding. "When you pin from retail sites, the price is pulled along with the item, so you can use **Pinterest** to track what you want to buy and to see when the price drops," Knobloch says.



### Share what you're saving up for

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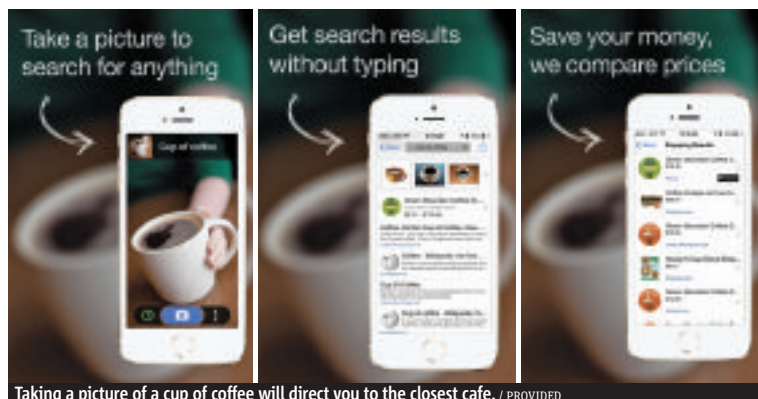
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# The shopping trend that can save you money



Taking a picture of a cup of coffee will direct you to the closest cafe. / PROVIDED

**Finance.** A new app is changing the way we shop.

A new tool is aiming to save shoppers time and money — and it could entirely transform the way we shop. CamFind is a free app for iOS (and Android, starting in January) that has mastered visual search, even surpassing Google's attempts. After using the app to take a photo, CamFind brings up all the info on the product, price comparisons and the option to

buy it right there on the spot, all on your phone.

Traditionally, people think of shopping as an either in-store or online experience. But as visual search becomes more mainstream, shopping may be seen as an any-place-anytime activity.

CamFind CEO Dominik Mazur tells us that users have found other inventive ways to use the app. "You can take a picture of a menu and immediately get Yelp reviews and recommendations," he says.

To save money, Mazur recommends using the app to comparison

shop. It also can help you get your favorite fashion trends for less. If you see an item you like, such as your co-worker's shoes or a friend's dress, and you take a picture of it, the app will pull up a list of places selling the item — or a similar style — at the best deal.

Mazur says Google has attempted to master visual search in the past, but is still lagging behind. "Google Goggles are only accurate one out of five or one out of 10 times," he says. "CamFind is accurate more than 90 percent of the time."

"It's the evolution of mobile search," Mazur says. "We're trying to change the way people search by making it easier, taking away the step it takes to type."

EMILY LAURENCE  
emily.laurence@metro.us

## Quoted

"It's the evolution of mobile search. We're trying to change the way people search by making it easier, taking away the step it takes to type."

Dominik Mazur, CamFind CEO

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# 2

## CULTURE



### Twitter feed

We check in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Elizabeth Hurley keeps thinking she's getting a phone call, Louis Tomlinson is excited for Christmas, Kirstie Alley is feeling odd and Kevin Bacon is overwhelmed by the festive spirit.

@ElizabethHurley: My parrot Ping Pong has mastered my phone ring. Endearing but annoying.

@Louis\_Tomlinson: Christmas soooooon !!

@kirstiealley: If I was a stripper I would have breast implants put in my shoulder blades just to throw guys off

@kevinbacon: Judging by the Holiday sweaters and Santa pins it's clear that flight attendants love Xmas



Michael Holt Salahi married Journey guitarist Neal Schon on Sunday in a pay-per-view wedding.

## Tying the knot — in pay-per-view style

I don't know who cares about this but I'm guessing that somewhere, someone is really, really into the fact that "Real Housewives of D.C." star (and infamous White House party crasher) Michael Holt Salahi married Journey guitarist Neal Schon on Sunday in San Francisco in a pay-per-view wedding.

Dubbed the "Winter Wonderland Wedding and Music Event," the event hosted 18 bridesmaids, 14 groomsmen and 350 guests, including Sammy Hagar, the Grateful Dead's Bob Weir, R&B

singer Brian McKnight and Omarosa Manigault. Their first dance as man and wife was to "When I Fall in Love" as fake snow fell from the ceiling and onto the dance floor.

I didn't watch the live broadcast, which clocked in at \$14.95 for three hours. Why? I guess I like my life and I didn't feel like ending it in the name of journalism. All I know is the only thing I'm jealous of in this whole mess is the fact they had Sammy Hagar as a wedding guest. Dude even supplied his own brand of tequila!

## Disney star laughs over nude selfies

Another former Disney star, another sexting "scandal."

Former "Suite Life of Zack & Cody" star Dylan Sprouse had a pair of revealing selfies hit the Internet over the weekend after an ex tweeted them. One featured Sprouse in his underwear and another of him wearing nothing at all. Fortunately, the 21-year-old is owning up to it. "Whoops, guess I'm not 14 and fat anymore," he tweeted. But he didn't make it through without enduring some gentle ribbing from his twin brother and former co-star, Cole Sprouse, who tweeted, "Cold in that bathroom, huh?"



Hot new couple alert? Not so fast, says Cyrus. /ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

## A tale of two Montanas? Miley Cyrus could be dating French Montana

Miley Cyrus is fending off speculation that she's dating rapper French Montana after the pair were spotted sharing a warm embrace in New York City recently, according to Hollywood Life.

"Miley was doing some post-show flirting with French Montana before leaving [Madison Square

Garden] and heading to the after-party," a source says, adding that Cyrus was spotted "grinding" on Montana. Cyrus' response? "Don't hug your friends goodbye unless you want to be rumored 'dating,'" she posted to Twitter. "I want to think more of the world but people just keep proving their stupidity."

## THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

DOROTHY ROBINSON

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### Talking point

## Wilson and McCarthy won't lose weight for Hollywood

Rebel Wilson and pal Melissa McCarthy are leaning on each other to resist pressures from Hollywood about their weight, according to Star magazine. "Neither

one of them is trying to lose weight, and they've formed this little support group to keep each other from falling into the skinny Hollywood trap," a source says of the "Bridesmaids" co-stars. "They have to hold the line and provide a positive image for overweight girls."



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# Better living through chemistry



David Koechner is back as Champ Kind in "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues." / GETTY IMAGES

**Interview.** David Koechner had no problem getting back into the groove for "Anchorman 2."

David Koechner has a long history with improvisation and comedy troupes. He was a regular at ImprovOlympic and The Second City in Chicago before spending a year on "Saturday Night Live," where he worked with Will Ferrell. His background made him an ideal person to be among the head quartet on

Ferrell's "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy," a modest hit in 2004 that blossomed into a highly quoted cult sensation.

When the sequel inevitably came around, getting back into gear with Ferrell, Steve Carell and Paul Rudd wasn't difficult. "This particular group, the rhythm never leaves," Koechner says. "We're so fortunate there's a certain chemistry that's just bountiful and works."

Much more gracious and humble in person than his character, brash alpha male sports reporter Champ Kind, he defers to his bosses for hatching a creative environment. "The

ensemble atmosphere is created by [director] Adam McKay and Will Ferrell. Their approach to the work is to be inviting and joyful. They pursue joy every moment of their lives."

Like the first "Anchorman" — and the other McKay-Ferrell projects, like "Talladega Nights," "Step Brothers" and "The Other Guys" — the sequel features a fair amount of improv. It wasn't a competition, though, Koechner says: "If anybody has an idea, they offer it readily. No one's trying to outdo anyone else."

That said, it's not like McKay and Ferrell write

their script with gaps to be filled in.

"If we didn't change a syllable, it would still be amazing," Koechner says. "I remember when we were making the first 'Anchorman.' I was thinking, 'How are we going to beat what's already written? It's brilliant.'" After shooting the scene as written three or four times, though, McKay would open it up to improv.

Koechner also praises McKay and Ferrell's ability to plot out narratives that take strange turns, which is further swelled by the improv. Says Koechner, "That's what comedy is: It's unexpected."

## Extras

### Too much of a good thing

The first "Anchorman" was also notable for having filmed so much that there came a separate, feature-

length film — called "Wake Up, Ron Burgundy: The Lost Movie" — made from material that wasn't used in the theatrical film. Koechner says that may happen again. "This one

we have three hours or more of movie. McKay has said there's about 230 additional jokes that are great that we haven't even used." Koechner and cast even lobbied for McKay to "Kill

Bill" the movie — to cut it in half and release each part separately.



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# Together again (sort of)

**Hustlers.** Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper reunite for "American Hustle."

Jennifer Lawrence won her Oscar for "Silver Linings Playbook," while her co-star Bradley Cooper had to settle for his first nomination. They don't share much screen time in "American Hustle." But the comedy — about the real-life Abscam operation, in which the feds coerced con artists (played by Christian Bale and Amy Adams) into a botched attempt to take down the mob — reunites them not only with each other, but with director David O. Russell, who loves to collaborate with actors. Here's some tidbits on their experience with him:

**Russell wanted Lawrence to do her best Paul McCartney.** Lawrence, who plays Bale's neglected wife, talks about how Russell approached her about a scene that wasn't in the script. "He had a vision of me wearing

yellow cleaning gloves and running through the house singing 'Live and Let Die,'" she recalls. It wasn't just a fun idea though. It was tied to her character. "She's so angry at this point. She's been lied to for so long. At this point she's been fighting [for the marriage] for so long that she's finally ready to just let it die. I thought it was a really crazy moment. I threw my neck out actually."

**Cooper got to collaborate on his character, an FBI agent who gets a little too into it.** "I wanted to look different, maybe unrecognizable. David's idea was, he curls his own hair. It's an odd thing to do and it's probably stress-related," Cooper says. There's other tics. "He's constantly making noise. Even when he's silent or idle, he's groaning in some way. He wants to be present [and] recognized in this world." In Cooper's eyes, his character barely qualifies as an adult. "He's a child, really," Cooper says. His character falls for Adams, but it's not true love. "He really falls in love with her like a boy would fall in love with a girl in eighth grade."



For Jennifer Lawrence, the time between "action" and "cut" is on another level. / GETTY IMAGES

## Quoted

**"You just watch people and learn to mimic their body language, how they move, how they walk." Lawrence**

**Lawrence has acted forever.** "It's all these things I did since I was little that were useless in Kentucky. You watch people and learn to mimic their body language, how they move, how they walk." She says she gets in a zone. "Between 'action' and 'cut,' it's

kind of like meditating. Anything you're feeling — if I'm cold [or in pain], in between 'action' and 'cut' I'm not. I'm in a completely different frame of mind."



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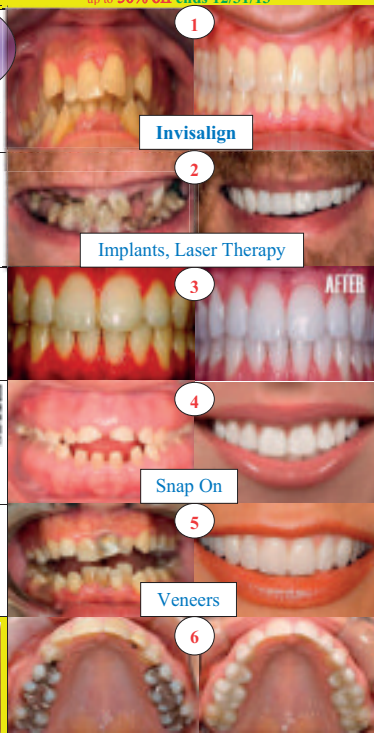
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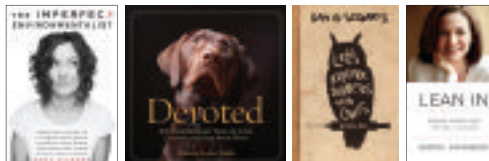


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## Countdown. Teresa Rhyne's favorite nonfiction of 2013



It's hard for a first-time author to surpass the bold-faced names typically seen on the New York Times best-sellers list, but that's exactly what Teresa Rhyne did with her book "The Dog Lived (And So Will I)." Her memoir about adopting a dog with cancer inspired millions. So, what books impacted Rhyne in 2013? She shares her top picks below.

**1 "Pukka's Promise: The Quest For Longer-Lived Dogs" by Ted Kerasote.** "I'm a lifetime dog-lover and yet this book made me rethink how I live with my dogs and what more I can do for their health and welfare,

and that was no easy task. Plus, Ted can spin a great tale (tail?) and that's not easy, either."

**2 "The Imperfect Environmentalist" by Sara Gilbert.** "This is a practical guide to clearing your body, detoxing your home and saving the Earth — without losing your mind — by actress Sara Gilbert. I've had two dogs fight cancer and I'm a cancer survivor myself, so this year I was all about detoxing our environment. This book became my 'go to' reference, particularly because of her 'Cut to the Chase Hippie: What's the Least I Need to Know' advice section on every topic — perfect."

**3 "Devoted: 28 Extraordinary Tales of Love, Loyalty, and Life With Dogs" by Rebecca Asher-Walsh.** "I'm a sucker for a beautiful dog book, and this one comes with touching stories about the many ways dogs are better than we are."

**4 "Let's Explore Diabetes With Owls" by David Sedaris.** "Because David Sedaris. Enough said."

**5 "Lean In" by Sheryl Sandberg.** "Lean In" is both thought-provoking and fascinating." **EMILY LAURENCE**



Giffin / EMMANUELLE CHOUSSY

### At the top

## 'A Silent Wife' by A.S.A. Harrison

**1** "It's a gripping, intelligent thriller about a marriage on the verge of collapse and a woman at her breaking point. It's gorgeously written and impossible to put down. A sad footnote: The author passed away just before the book's publication."



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# Emily Giffin's favorite fiction books of 2013



**Story-telling.** The best-selling author shares her Top 5 favorite books of the year.

International best-selling author Emily Giffin knows a thing or two about what makes a good page-turner. Her first book, "Something Borrowed" was made into a movie starring Kate Hudson and Jennifer Goodwin, and her subsequent five novels have been lauded both here and abroad. Giffin, whose seventh novel, "The One and Only," comes out in May 2014, shares with us her favorite fiction books of the year.

**2 "Sisterland"**  
by Curtis Sittenfeld  
"Sisterland" is a moving and complex emotional

study of twin sisters born with mild ESP. Curtis Sittenfeld is one of my favorite authors. As a mother of identical twins, I found this story especially fascinating."

**3 "The Ocean At The End Of The Lane"**  
by Neil Gaiman  
"This story is a beautiful but bewitching fairy tale of magic and memory. The novel is very unlike my usual reads, but my sister convinced me to give it a chance. She was right — it's hauntingly delicious."

**4 "The Yonahlossee Riding Camp For Girls"**  
by Anton DiSclafani  
"I have always been drawn to coming-of-age stories, and this novel is a true gem among them. Set during the Depression at an equestrian boarding school, DiSclafani's debut is that rare combination of

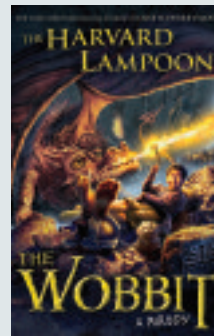
understated elegance and explosive drama."

**5 "Wonder"**  
by R.J. Palacio  
"Wonder" is about a 10-year-old boy who was born with extreme facial anomalies. I read it aloud to my three children, and it touched us all profoundly. It's not only my favorite book of the year, but also of all time — right up there with "To Kill A Mockingbird."

EMILY LAURENCE  
emily.laurence@metro.us

## The best books for Secret Santa

Stumped about what to buy for a gift swap? Here are three ideas.

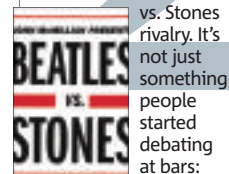


### 'The Wobbit'

**by The Harvard Lampoon**  
Any Tolkien fan or excited "Hobbit" moviegoer will appreciate this book, written by the authors of "The Hunger Pains" and "Bored of the Rings." "The Wobbit" follows Aaron Sorkinshield and his army of Little People on a journey across Widdle Wearth to steal back their Academy Awards, which were stolen by Puff the Magic Dragon. Readers will be chuckling from beginning to end.

### 'Beatles vs. Stones'

**by John McMillian**  
Impress a music-lover by gifting this entertaining read about The Beatles



vs. Stones rivalry. It's not just something people started debating at bars: McMillian explains how it was created by record execs and marketing teams. The Beatles were portrayed as lovey-dovey guys while the Rolling Stones were made out to be sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll bad boys. It's sure to spark some fun holiday party convos.

### 'White Whine: A Study of First-World Problems'



**by Streeter Seidel**  
For your friend who can't get enough of #whitegirl-problems or #first-worldproblems, look no further than Streeter Seidel of CollegeHumor.com's new book, "White Whine." Chapters explore agonizing hardships, like choosing the wrong line at Whole Foods or the annoyance of goose feathers poking through your pillow.

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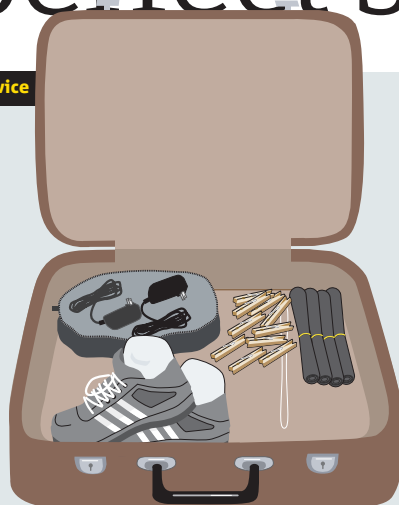


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Make this the year you don't stuff everything into a duffel bag. / STOCKBYTE

# How to pack the perfect suitcase

### Advice



**Wrinkle-free.** Be a black-belt at packing with some advice from folks who have clocked serious miles on the road.

Packing is more than just jamming a bunch of wrinkled clothes into an old duffel bag. As prices for checked bags creep upward (it can cost anywhere between \$25 to \$175 if your suitcase is overweight), knowing how to get where you're going with as little bulk as possible is vital.

Donna Smallin Kuper knows a thing or two about tight spaces (and organizational wizardry). She's the author of "The One Minute Organizer" and a recent convert to the nomadic tribe of RV enthusiasts: She's gone cross-country and has plans for several stops in 2014. Kuper says that wrinkles must be out of the question when space is tight. "I don't own an iron anymore," she admits, adding that all of the outfits she packed into her RV were wrinkle-resistant. "When you're selecting outfits, think about what can you roll up and then unroll with virtually no

wrinkles," she suggests.

If you can't avoid bringing dressy items that may crease in a suitcase, Kuper's solution is to use the plastic from the dry cleaner's to line the inside and outside of the piece of clothing. "What happens is that the plastic bag helps prevent it from creasing," she says. "The fabric rolls around the plastic so that you can get where you're going and immediately hang those items."

For shoes, Kuper says to go by weight. "I usually wear my heaviest shoes. If I plan to bring boots, I'm going to wear them on my travel days because they take up so much room," she says.

Patrick Smith's love of travel extends beyond his job as a pilot. He's been to more than 80 countries worldwide and recently authored a book, "Ask the Pilot," based on his blog of the same name. Inside his small roller bag is evidence of his pro packing abilities. He suggests keeping the gadgets that ultimately rule our lives — chargers, USB cables, headphones and the like — in one pouch, and buying a second version of any tech accessories so that you can have one pouch with everything ready to go.

### Advice

### She said:

- Invest in a carry-on that's the maximum size allotted by airlines. Avoid checking a bag at all costs, Kuper says, but if you must: "Make sure you have with you anything you might possibly need, in case you get stuck at the airport."



- Choose a color scheme for your outfits, starting with your shoes, because they are the bulkiest item. "That way everything you bring can mix and match and you don't need as many things."
- Invest in space bags, so that it's possible to make clothing items lie as flat as possible, Kuper recommends. Plus, on the way home, you can use them as laundry bags.
- Instead of bringing your finest perfume (and having to dump it at the security checkpoint) Kuper says to douse a cotton swab in your favorite scent and then put it in a Ziploc bag. It won't last forever, but it will mean you don't have to worry about the threat of a leaky bottle (or a wasted one).



### A tip for those

### traveling with kids

**"You can pack their outfits in large Ziploc bags and write their names on them."**



**JULIA FURLAN**  
[julia.furlan@metro.us](mailto:julia.furlan@metro.us)



# 'Ugly' Christmas party sweaters you'll actually want to wear again

'Tis the season for all those Ugly Christmas Sweater Parties you inevitably get invited to every year. Don't panic! No need to dig through mom's seemingly endless supply of reindeer cardigans or spend an afternoon mining your local thrift shop (though, if you've got the time, you could hit gold). We scoured the Internet for holiday sweaters that are both festive and fashionable.

## TopShop

Those Brits know what they're doing when it comes to holiday fashion. You'll be the present everyone wants to receive (or unwrap, if you're feeling frisky) when you show up in TopShop's Sequin Present jumper. This angora/nylon blend features a glittery sequined ribbon that stands out brightly on the snowy white sweater. **\$96, [www.us.topshop.com](http://www.us.topshop.com)**



## Louche

The only thing that could make this cozy Frosty Friends sweater by Louche look any cuter on you is if your entrance to the party were narrated by Morgan Freeman. The penguin print is suitably seasonable, but adorable for any wintery occasion. **\$57.99, [www.modcloth.com](http://www.modcloth.com)**



## BDG

BDG's Animal Games cotton crewneck is so cute you're going to want to wear it year-round. The slouchy, ultra-comfy sweater's geometric animal print in chic, bold primary

colors is suitable for hanging around a fire — or dancing late into the night, you party animal, you. **\$59, [www.urbanoutfitters.com](http://www.urbanoutfitters.com)**



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## Burberry Prossum

Splurge on this super luxe cashmere crew neck. The graphic looks like a nutcracker (but it's actually a British guard). But, honestly, you'll look so good nobody will be asking questions. **\$777, [www.netaporter.com](http://www.netaporter.com)**



## ASOS

You'll fall in puppy love with ASOS' sweet pug sweater. This festive little guy's sequined nose and bow tie ensures that you'll sparkle as brightly as any decorations at your next holiday bash. **\$63.52, [www.us.asos.com](http://www.us.asos.com)**



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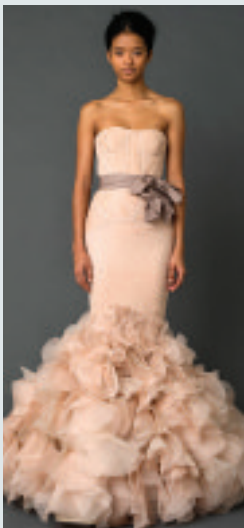
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The stylish Stockholm-based rainwear brand — Jay-Z chose them to be a part of his Barneys collaboration — opened a pop-up in Nolita showcasing their signature colorful raincoats and accessories such as the windproof Loman umbrella.  
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**'Jingle All the Way'**

Remember this '90s classic? Arnold Schwarzenegger stars as a father determined to get his son the toy of the year — Turbo Man — for Christmas, but the big day is coming up fast. Typical, right, moms?

**'Frozen'**

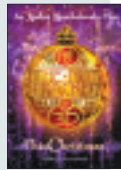
Disney's new animated movie is killing it at the box office. Kristen Bell plays Anna, who ventures through the snow with a silly snowman (Josh Gad) to find her sister, whose magical winter powers have made it freezing cold all year long.



# 10 Best family holiday movies ever

**'The Nutcracker'**

Your kids might not be able to sit through a ballet performance, but the movie version is something the whole family can get behind. Inject a little culture into your family night with this movie starring Elle Fanning and Nathan Lane. The special effects make it a cut above past movie versions.

**'Home Alone'**

This Chris Columbus classic never gets old. Seriously. Relive the days when Macaulay Culkin played a cute 8-year-old who's accidentally left by himself while his family is on a Christmas vacation. You'll enjoy the shenanigans he gets up to as much as your kids will. And with four follow-up movies, there's plenty of "Home Alone" viewing left for future family nights.

**'The Santa Clause'**

Whatever happened to Tim Allen? This '90s movie was so popular that it spawned two follow-ups. Your kids will love imagining what they would do if their own dad suddenly became Santa.

**'A Christmas Story'**

Thanks to TBS playing "A Christmas Story" for 24 hours every Christmas Day, you most likely won't have to rent this one to watch it. The ridiculous leg lamp, Ralphie in that pink bunny suit, the tongue stuck to the pole — there are so many moments that make "A Christmas Story" a holiday classic, even if you've never thought about owning a BB gun.

**'The Polar Express'**

Virtually every parent enjoyed reading "The Polar Express" as a child, and the movie is even more magical than the book. There's something about trains that most kids just find super cool, and "The Polar Express" is a lot more vivid than those "Thomas the Tank Engine" movies. The sentimental story and amazing graphics keep everyone watching.

**'Shrek the Halls'**

At only 30 minutes, this flick is perfect if you've promised the kids they could watch a movie, but you really want to get them to bed. All the Shrek favorites are back, telling their own versions of "The Night Before Christmas."

**'Elf'**

"Anchorman 2" may be inappropriate for family night, but this Will Ferrell movie is safe for all ages. It's hard to believe this movie came out 10 years ago, but the jokes have definitely held up.

**'VeggieTales: Merry Larry and the True Light of Christmas'**

This brand new VeggieTales movie has a surprising twist: It's narrated by Si Robertson of "Duck Dynasty."



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# The best 'Elf on the Shelf' ideas

If you're hard up for "Elf on the Shelf" ideas, we have you covered. LivingWithLandyn.com blogger Landyn Hutchinson is posting new ideas throughout the season, all tested on her own two kids. Proud of one of your own ideas? Tweet or Instagram them to @metronewyork. The below-right photo comes from reader and dad of two, Dan Dykhouse! **EMILY LAURENCE**



PROVIDED

## 'Elfies!'

"My kids got the biggest kick out of this one, not to mention the 10+ 'elfies' they took while the kids were sleeping," Hutchinson says.

### Reader photo

"My wife said it's my turn 2 come up w/ an idea for 'Buzz the Elf'...so it's poker night!"

@DANDYKHOUSE TWEETED



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Hey, elves are from the North Pole — no wonder they like ice fishing! Construct the fishing rod using a skewer and kitchen string, poking a small hole through a Swedish Fish to secure it on the rod. Stick the fish in a ramekin full of water and freeze overnight. / PROVIDED



Hutchinson constructed this easy setup using brown sugar and washcloths. The glitter glasses and little umbrella can be bought at Michaels. PROVIDED

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## Horoscope

♐ **Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21.** Sudden career changes may shock you. You need to find healthy ways to blow off steam. Take care of yourself.

♑ **Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20.** Keep business and pleasure separate, or damaging gossip could affect your reputation. Right now, honesty is your best bet.

♒ **Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18.** Now is the time to marshal your energy and finally meet some of the goals you've set for yourself. You now have everything you need to succeed.

♓ **Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20.** Emotional upheaval regarding a family issue may ruin your plans. A move or change to your home will be beneficial. Let your intuition guide you.

♈ **Aries | March 21-April 20.** It's a good day to take a trip. If you maintain an open mind and engage in discussions with the right people, you will learn a lot.

♉ **Taurus | April 21-May 21.** Be willing to lend a hand to colleagues. You will gather meaningful intelligence and new skills through courses at this time.

♊ **Gemini | May 22-June 20.** If you allow yourself to be impulsive, your flippant nature may compromise a partnership. Get out and have fun.

♋ **Cancer | June 21-July 22.** You'll find your responsibilities difficult to bear. Do your best to make improvements that will benefit the whole family. Make a point of asking for help.

♌ **Leo | July 23-Aug. 22.** If you're clear about your intentions, you can take romance to the next level. Plan to share some private time with your partner.

♍ **Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Emotions will be difficult to control at home. Take one step at a time and remain impartial. Your pragmatic approach will win out.

♎ **Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22.** Travel will result in new friendships and information. Changes in personal matters should be accepted, not challenged.

♏ **Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21.** Your possessive attitude may feel oppressive. Avoid placing demands on those you love. Now is the time to give others space.  
**BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

## Sudoku: Easy and hard

8		4		2				
6			7			9		
3	2				5	4		
		1		7			3	4
		2		8		7		
7	5			9		2		
		9	8				7	5
		3			7			6
			6		3			2

		8				1	3	4
			2			7	6	
				4	8	2		
				6			1	7
		7	3		9	4		
9	4			8				
		5	9	1				
	1	2			6			
7	6	9				5		

**How to play**  
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

## Crossword

## Across

- 1 Furry engineer
- 7 Auto gizmo
- 10 Road rally
- 14 Lacking pigment
- 15 Permit
- 16 Author— Haley
- 17 Collects slowly
- 18 Unlatch, to a bard
- 19 Skirt style
- 20 Real estate situation (2 wds.)
- 23 Dish with beans
- 26 Livy's dozen
- 27 Dorm dwellers
- 28 Judge's garb
- 29 Mae West accessory
- 30 Bossy's chew
- 31 Aurora, to Plato
- 32 B-movie pistol
- 33 Private eye
- 37 Barely squeak by
- 38 Yale athlete
- 39 Natural resource
- 40 Airport code for O'Hare
- 41 Forceful
- 43 Martini base
- 44 So far— know
- 45 Overcome adversity
- 46 Sharpen a cheddar
- 47 Gator's cousin
- 48 Vast expanse
- 51 More than most

## Down

- 52 — a clue
- 53 Coin collector (2 wds.)
- 56 Klein of fashion
- 57 Galleon cargo
- 58 Kind of cracker
- 62 Pork cut
- 63 Lawyer's thing
- 64 Deep inside
- 65 Catches a glimpse
- 66 Bumped into
- 67 Fell behind
- 1 Luggage
- 2 Bracket type
- 3 Homer's dad
- 4 Feasible
- 5 Ho-hum feeling
- 6 Promising
- 7 Ms. Estefan
- 8 Cola choice
- 9 Quell
- 10 Forces a bill through
- 11 Comparable
- 12 Gave up land
- 13 Toll-booth sites
- 21 Glamorous
- 22 Discernment
- 23 "Rocky II" loser
- 24 Play — (be absent)
- 25 "Ghosts" writer
- 29 Leading lady Ina —

- 30 Radium discoverer
- 32 Zodiac sign
- 33 Roll one's eyes
- 34 Miser's cache
- 35 Actor — Welles
- 36 Royal decree
- 42 Stirs
- 46 Not quite
- 47 Thoughtful
- 48 Fiery gems
- 49 Portage item
- 50 Bert's buddy
- 51 Come to terms
- 52 Auburn tint
- 54 Rule of thumb
- 55 Opossum's gripper
- 59 Kiosk buy, slangily
- 60 Corroded, as acid
- 61 Escorted

## Yesterday's answer



## Letters

## Don't speak ill of the dead

**Re: 'Top pop culture moments of 2013' (Metro, Dec. 16)** You should be ashamed of even printing the negative comment your writer Rachel Vigoda wrote about Paul Walker at the end of "Top pop culture moments of 2013." Those who knew Paul will miss him.

Your comment was so disrespectful.  
**SUSAN ALDRICH, VIA EMAIL**

## Kanye be any funnier, Metro?

**Re: 'The Word' (Metro,**

**Dec. 13-15)** I'm not sure if you recognize my name from tweeting you about your hilarious gossip column in Metro, but I just wanted to reach out again because I think you're HYSTERICAL and I actually laugh out loud in the subway on the way to work.

Everything you write sounds like the exact dialogue that goes on in my head. The Kanye story [Friday] morning actually killed me. ... I think I scared everyone around me by creepily laughing at the paper.

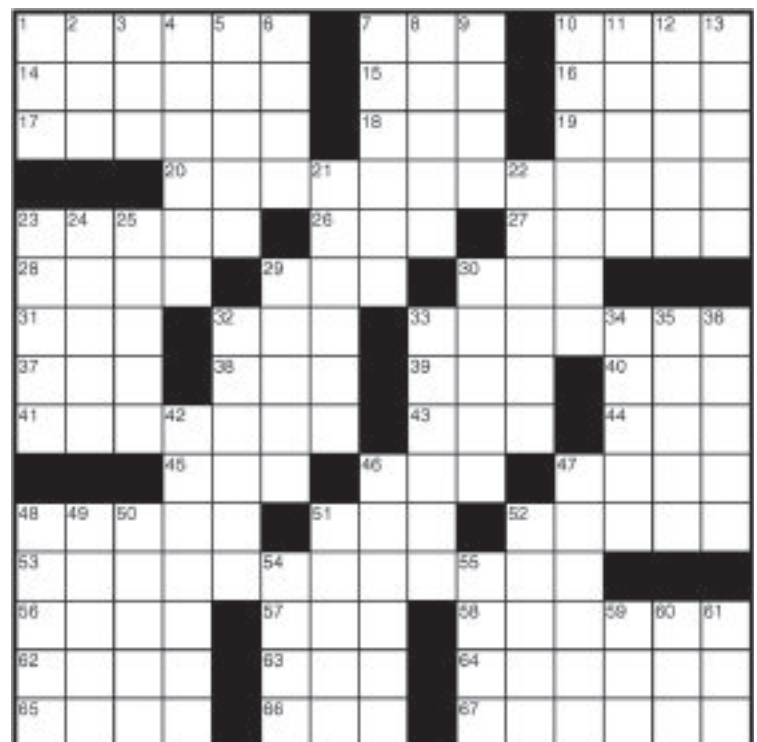
Keep up the good work, and I look forward to more!  
**SOPHIE WEILL, VIA EMAIL**

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

## Online

You can use your smartphone to discover today's crossword answers — right now! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle — it's that easy!







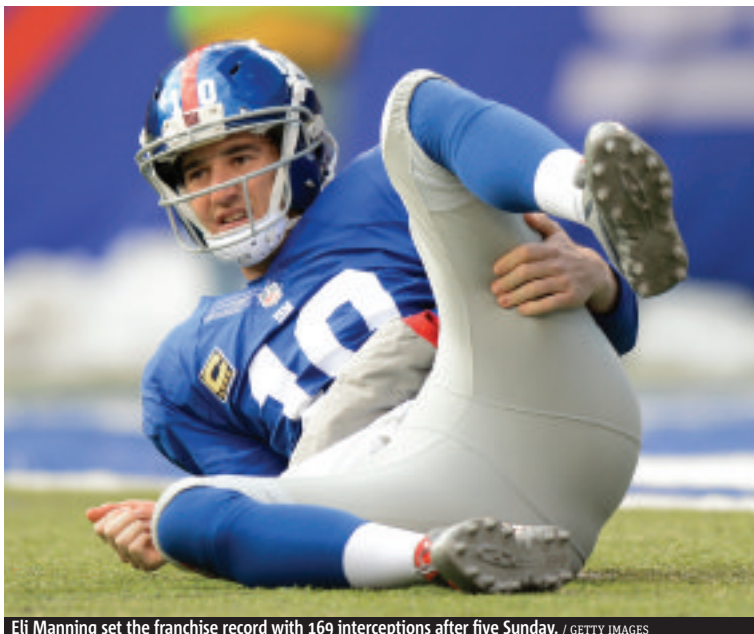
# Manning hearing plenty of criticism

**NFL.** The former Super Bowl MVP is struggling mightily but his teammates are backing him up.

The Giants have a host of problems, and after being shutout by Seattle, it's evident there's a lack of talent on the offensive line, no help from the running game and an underachieving wideout corps. But arguably the biggest problem to date is the point-man who is running the lame offense, quarterback Eli Manning.

The two-time Super Bowl MVP, who has tossed a league-high 25 interceptions, is starting to hear it from critics.

"There hasn't been anything said that's not undeserved. It's all pretty accurate," said Manning, adding each interception has its own story to tell. "Sometimes it's a bad decision or a bad throw. Or sometimes it's like what happened yesterday when their guys made more plays. We knew we'd get a lot of one-on-one matchups and were looking forward to trying to take advantage of those matchups. But when you throw a couple



Eli Manning set the franchise record with 169 interceptions after five Sunday. / GETTY IMAGES

## Quoted

**"He's not going to allow what people are saying about him to dictate what he needs to do."**

Justin Tuck, Giants captain  
On Eli Manning dealing with criticism over his poor performance this season

of those one-on-ones down the field and they get intercepted, it's not what you're looking forward to, and so right away it kind of takes us out of what we're planning to do. ... It definitely wasn't fun watching that film."

Poor decisions and turnovers are the bane of head coach Tom Coughlin's coaching existence, so when asked about his quar-

terback and the criticism that is starting to stick, the coach noted that everyone needs to continue to rally around one another.

"Our strength is as a team," Coughlin said. "Our strength is in our unselfish commitment to each other."

TONY WILLIAMS  
sports@metro.us

## On second thought



## Lopez out again despite plan to play

Brook Lopez's second sprained ankle does not seem as painful as his first, which is why he sounded hopeful about playing Monday night against the 76ers during the morning shootaround.

It turned out the medical staff did not echo those sentiments and head coach Jason Kidd followed their advice by holding Lopez out.

"Brook's a competitor and he wants to play," Kidd said. "For the medical staff and myself, I just felt it was a risk if he wasn't 100 percent and again guys won't be 100 percent throughout the season, but he wasn't moving as well as I would have liked."

Kidd decided to go with a smaller lineup Monday night, giving Mirza Teletovic a surprising start at power forward — the first of his NBA career.

LARRY FLEISHER

# 3

## SPORTS



## No crying in football

**Bryant left field to hide tears**

Dallas wideout Dez Bryant apologized on Monday for leaving the field with 1:21 left in a shocking comeback defeat by Green Bay. "I cried when I got into the locker room," Bryant said. "I didn't want to show that stuff on the sideline."

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The 6-foot-4, 346-pound Ellis is surprisingly athletic considering his overwhelming size, due to exceptional footwork praised by line coach Karl Dunbar. / GETTY IMAGES

**NFL.** Jets nose tackle Kenrick Ellis is quietly establishing himself as one of the best linemen in the NFL.

According to the advanced statistic mavens at Pro Football Focus, Jets nose tackle Kenrick Ellis is among the best interior linemen in the NFL. This after there were doubts he would ever develop into a serviceable defensive lineman.

The ranking from Pro Football Focus is judged on a per snap basis, where he is the best defensive tackle in terms of run stop percentage.

His turnaround started in the classroom of all places. Every mistake Ellis made in practice or in a game, defensive line coach Karl Dunbar would highlight in film study after. After awhile, he got tired of "being pointed at every day." So he set about to get better and improve.

"Things I was told all my life that I didn't take to, like using your hands. It's easy, you hear 'Use

your hands, use your hands.' Just getting your hands on people," Ellis told us. "I was too busy trying to be physical with them. Whoever has their hands inside usually wins. You have leverage, you can control someone if your hands are on the inside."

Ask Ellis about his play, and he quickly turns to the play of the entire defensive line, deflecting attention away from himself.

Ellis, a third-round pick in the 2011 NFL Draft, served prison time during the offseason following his rookie year stemming from an arrest in college.

During training camp, Ellis had an injury to his vertebra he was worried would keep him off the

field and bury him on the depth chart — if not worse. He cited former Jets nose tackle Sione Pouha, a fan favorite who suffered a similar injury and was cut by the Jets this past offseason.

In the NFL, Ellis realized you are one injury away from never coming back.

"I'm just happy to be here competing. After I herniated a disc in my back — Sione Pouha had that injury — and you know [what happened]," Ellis said. "I hurt it on Aug. 12 in camp. I just try to compete; I don't know what to tell you. I was down. I didn't know how many games I was going to miss [or] if I'd be here.

That's the great feeling, just to be here helping."

His job is a thankless one and one of the few on the field that can't be measured in statistics. At the center of the defensive line, his role in the 3-4 is to push the pocket and fill the gaps. It means he doesn't get his name in the box score very often. But when Muhammad Wilkerson or Sheldon Richardson get a sack, it is often the work of Ellis or fellow nose tackle Damon Harrison who pushed the pocket back so that the quarterback can't step up.

He was always an athlete, even at 6-foot-4 and 346 pounds, but he has worked on his leverage and using his hips better. Now his outstanding footwork has combined with improved hand technique to create a matchup problem for opposing teams.

"There is more work to be done," Ellis said. "I feel like I haven't had a big game. There's so much room for improvement. I'm happy just to be here. But there is more work to be done."

**KRISTIAN DYER**  
sports@metro.us

#### Back in green?

### Ryan wants to be back with Jets next year

Rex Ryan may have saved his best coaching job for what could be his final year in New York.

The Jets weren't supposed to be playing meaningful football in December, something that might be as much of a shock to the team as it is to fans and media who already had written the obituary for their head coach in August.

"I know I'm a good football coach. I believe in this team, I

believe in this organization," Ryan said. "I'm determined to bring a winner to this team, there's no question about it. I know and I believe I'm the right guy for it."

A win on Sunday would give the Jets more wins than last season, but Ryan wouldn't talk about how it could impact his job next season.

"I'm not sure how it does," Ryan said. "The only thing I know I can do is do the best job I possibly can and keep my focus on the job at hand. And not worry about other things."

**KRISTIAN DYER**

#### Sack masters

Ellis' play inside gives the defensive ends better opportunities for sacks.

- The Jets have four players with at least 3 1/2 sacks, led by Muhammad Wilkerson with 10. Calvin Pace has nine, Quinton Coples has four and Sheldon Richardson has 3 1/2.





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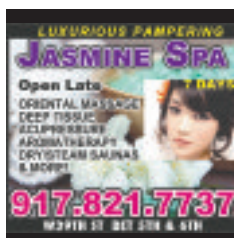
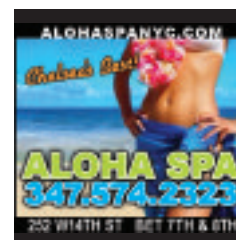
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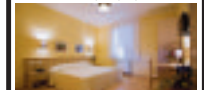
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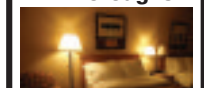
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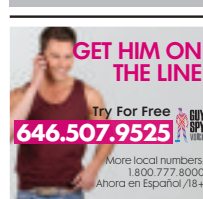
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MUST PRESENT COUPON AT CHECKOUT  
Expires December 27, 2013

\*In store only due to manufacturer restrictions.  
Some restrictions apply.

You don't have to be an expert to talk to the experts



## STORE HOURS

**Sunday**  
9:30am to 5pm  
**Monday-Thursday**  
9am to 8pm  
**Friday**  
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**Closed Saturdays**



**SAVE \$100!**



**ON ANY TABLET**  
(see store for details)



Apple iPod Touch 5th Generation, 64GB, Pink  
SKU: ACNC904LLA  
Final Price **\$364.95**



Bose IE2 In-Ear Audio Headphones  
SKU: BOSIE2BW  
Price \$99.95  
Final Price **\$89.95**



Sony W Series Walkman Sports MP3 Player, 4GB, Blue  
SKU: SCW273BL Price \$98.00  
Final Price **\$78.00**  
(in-store special pricing)



Bose CineMate GS Series II Digital Home Theater Speaker System  
SKU: BOSECGSSII  
Price \$599.00  
Final Price **\$539.00**  
(in-store special pricing)



Toshiba 39" Class 1080p LED TV  
SKU: T039L2300U  
Price \$426.07  
Final Price **\$369.00**



LG 55" Full HD 1080p LED Smart TV  
SKU: LOT55LN5600  
Final Price **\$749.99**



G-Technology G-Drive Mini 4th Generation, 500GB  
SKU: GTEGDM50072  
Price \$149.00  
Final Price **\$89.99**



WD My Passport Ultra 1TB Portable External Hard Drive  
SKU: WDUP1TBK  
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